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NOTE**

RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION IN CENTRAL CHINA



TOP SECRET

JUNE 1971

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RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION IN CENTRAL CHINA

1. [redacted] railroad construction has been observed in two areas of central China (Figure 1): in Kweichow and Hunan Provinces (area A), and in Szechwan, Shensi, and Hupeh Provinces (area B).

2. In area A, approximately 158 nautical miles (nm) of rail line were observed from Kuei-ting (26-35N 107-14E) to a point northeast of Chih-chiang at 27-33N 109-45E (Figures 1 and 2). Approximately 152 nm of this line were in an early stage of construction on photography [redacted]. A 6-nm section, including a bridge across the Wu-shui River in the vicinity of Chih-chiang, was under construction on photography [redacted]. The remainder of the line was not observed on photography but is projected to run to Hsin-hua (27-44N 111-18E).** When complete, the line will provide a direct route from Kuei-ting to central Hunan Province and may link with a rail line from Hupeh Province into Hunan.

3. In area B (Figure 1), construction had been observed along the projected Wu-han to Chung-ching line. A 27-nm section of line from 32-14N 111-45E to 32-23N 111-21E, which was observed under construction [redacted] was complete on photography [redacted]. On photography [redacted] construction was in a mid to late stage on an 8-nm section west from 32-23N 111-21E to 32-35N 111-04E.

4. On photography [redacted] construction was still in progress on the projected Wu-han to Chung-ching line. Construction was complete from its junction with the Chung-ching to Cheng-tu line at 29-20N 106-23E north to Pei-pei (29-50N 106-26E). Construction was in an early stage on an approximately 103-nm segment north from Pei-pei to 31-16N 107-30E, north of Ta-hsien. A 12-nm section of rail line was in an early stage of construction in the vicinity of Hsian-chia-kang Probable Motor Vehicle Plant [redacted] from 32-35N 110-52E to 32-41N 110-34E. From 32-14N 111-43E, 10 nm south of Kuang-hua, the line is projected to the vicinity of 32-40N 108-35E where it will split. One branch will run south toward the construction north of Ta-hsien; the other branch, a portion of which is complete,*** will run west to the Pao-chi to Cheng-tu rail line at 32-58N 106-03E. Other segments of the projected line were not covered on photography. When complete, the projected line will shorten the existing route from Wu-han to Cheng-tu by approximately 200 nm and the Wu-han to Chung-ching route by approximately 600 nm.

**NPIC: [redacted] PIN-046/71, New Railroad Construction in South-Central China, Apr 71 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

***CIA: [redacted] Communist China: Expansion of the Railroad Network [redacted] Feb 71 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

***CIA: [redacted] Standard Gauge Rail Construction in China [redacted] Mar 71 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

NPIC/ [redacted]



FIGURE 1. RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION, CENTRAL CHINA

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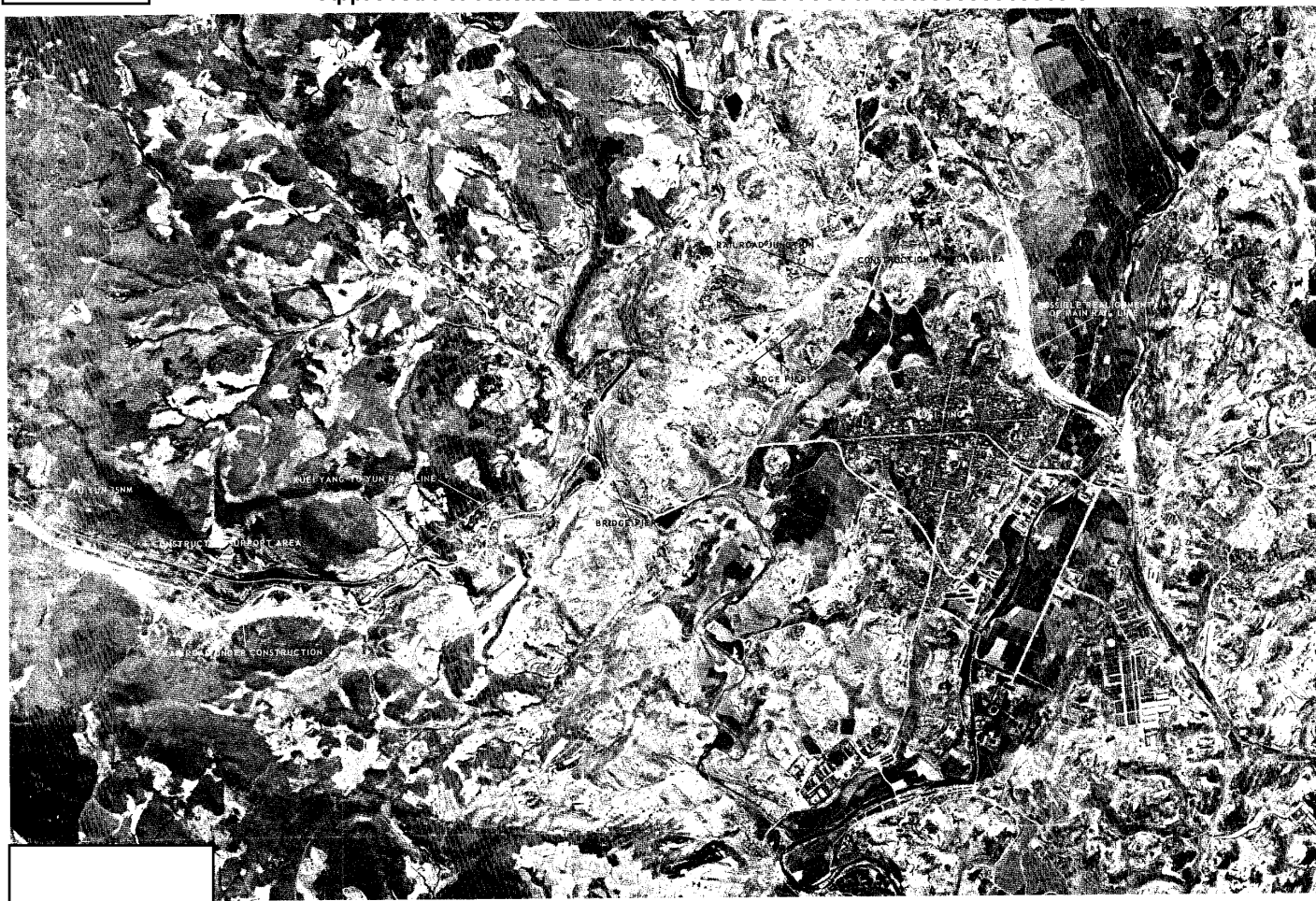
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FIGURE 2. RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION, KUEI-TING VICINITY (AREA A), CHINA

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